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UNCLAS QUITO 001803

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/PPC, WHA/AND, AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: TIP A TOP PRIORITY

1. On August 2, President Alfredo Palacio devoted a section of his televised national address (septel) to trafficking in persons (TIP), declaring his government's "priority to combat TIP, exploitation, and underage prostitution." He publicized the penal code reforms that criminalize trafficking and said he intends to develop an integral approach to protect victims, especially children. In a meeting on August 3, the Charge complimented Palacio on his statement. Palacio responded that it is important that people know that "combating TIP is a top priority of my government."

Comment:

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2. Palacio's demeanor was very passionate during this portion of his speech, emphasizing his commitment to fighting TIP. His address will help elevate TIP at a national level and further demonstrates the GOE's commitment to fighting trafficking.

MEMMOTT